

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 5-13, and 16-23 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 12, and 23 being independent. Claims 1, 12 and 23 have been amended.

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 9, 12-13, 17-18, 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,621,810), and in view of Yamakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,366). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 5, which was objected to by the Examiner but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Similarly, Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the features of objected to Claim 16. Therefore, Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 721-5427. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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